

RODNEY DAVIS
13TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

www.rodneymdavis.house.gov
www.facebook.com/reprodneydavis
www.twitter.com/rodneymdavis

1740 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2371

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1313

August 8, 2019

607

COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE,
AND RESEARCH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Pai:

I am writing to express my support for Heather Hampton Knodle to serve on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force. The values and skills she has accumulated throughout her life make her an ideal candidate for service.

Heather has a long history of serving in an advisory capacity promoting the needs of agriculture and rural communities. She currently serves as a member of my own Agriculture Advisory Committee. During her time on my committee, I have valued her insight as representative of the needs of all of agriculture and greatly trust her counsel..

Furthermore, Heather's passion and advocacy for rural America extends beyond her service on the Agriculture Advisory Committees, and she illustrates her knowledge of policies and programs related to rural broadband well. She and her husband actively farm in Central Illinois, and have been active in local leadership positions within the Farm Bureau organization.

Heather was founding chairman of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation who worked to establish a first of its kind broadband pilot in the State of Illinois as well as fiber optic buildouts to six rural communities, with potential to build out to several more. She also led an effort for a first of its kind distance learning initiative between a critical access hospital and four school districts. Additionally, on Heather's family farm, they have been using GPS-driven technology since the mid-1990s and continue to innovate with precision seeding, grain storage management and a solar array.

She has also served in Leadership within the American Agri-Women association, and has served her community by working with local and statewide government officials to promote economic development and access to financing options through the Central Illinois Economic Development Authority – options used to grow rural communities.

Without question, Heather is committed to growing businesses and capacity in rural areas and would bring a diverse knowledge of federal and state-based resources to FCC Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force. I firmly believe Heather would be a valuable asset to Task Force. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

2004 FOX DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
(217) 403-4690

108 WEST MARKET
TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568
(217) 824-5117

15 PROFESSIONAL PARK DRIVE
MARYVILLE, IL 62062
(618) 205-8660

2833 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE EAST
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
(217) 791-6224

104 W NORTH STREET
NORMAL, IL 61761
(309) 252-8834

243 S WATER STREET, SUITE 100
DECATUR, IL 62523
(217) 791-6224